



E-News from the St. Mark's Pews 243rd Edition December 13th, 2024



From the Rector

The readings and hymns of the Advent season exhort us to repent, to look to the future, and to expect a great and shattering last judgement of all things.

The Greek word for repentance is *metanoia*, which means something like "to think differently after." But repentance isn't simply about a change of mind, nor is it simply about being remorseful for past actions. To repent is to accept God's judgement upon us, and the genuineness of our repentance

is to be measured more by our actions rather than by declarations of regret and shame.

Repentance and judgement both take place *now* in the midst of our lives. And the good news of Advent is that it's never too late to repent, to accept God's judgement on our lives. What's difficult for you and me to fathom is that God's judgement is not his wrath, but his love. Set beside his perfect, complete and boundless love, our love, which is so often imperfect, partial and contingent, is pretty paltry indeed. But if we can accept God's judgement upon us, if we can receive the redemptive love he offers us, if we can believe that we are accepted by him *as we are*, then the process of repentance can begin within us.

To repent is to risk becoming a new person by loving others and by living for others. Love and life can be shared only in the present. The damned in Dante's *Inferno* can see the future but not the present. We likewise live for the future, plan for it, and even believe that we can see it. The trouble is, too much of our time and energy is spent living for and looking to the future that we neglect the present.

Are you planning for the future, for Christmas and beyond, hoping that this year you may be given the gift that will be the one you've always wanted, the one that will change everything? You're not alone. But the secret is this: the gift we seek doesn't come only at Christmas. We can have it now. Open it: it's the gift of new life, of new possibilities, of the redemptive and loving judgement of Christ. Once we've opened it, and accepted it, we can, in turn, open ourselves up in love and service and be a gift to others. And when we can do this, we will see that the future is now.



Happy Birthday, Leighton!

On this wonderful day, we all pray that God's love surrounds you and His grace uplifts you. May He grant you the desires of your heart and bless you with His peace and joy.

You are a blessing to all who know you.

Have a beautiful and blessed birthday.

Dear Friends,

It's my sad duty to tell you that **Chris Jennings** died on Wednesday morning. He was at peace with Jeanne and his children by his side. There will be a private funeral service. A memorial service is planned for the summer, and details will be announced in due course.

Please pray for the repose of his soul, for Jeanne, his children, family, and friends who mourn him.

Father of all, we pray to you for those we love, but see no longer: Grant them your peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good purpose of your perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Dear Friends,

We are saddened to inform you that our long-time parishioner and former Warden at St. Mark's, **Brenda Leboudec**, passed away on November 29th at the age of 76. Please keep Brenda, along with her family and close friends, in your thoughts and prayers.

Brenda Leboudec obituary

Father of all, we pray to you for those we love, but see no longer: Grant them your peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good purpose of your perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Friends,

This is a reminder to complete and drop off your **ST. MARK'S 2025 PLEDGE FORM**.

Greeters will be happy to receive them after Sunday services, or you can drop them off at the office Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

You can also email your pledge form to stmarks@cogeco.net.

Ideally, we would like to have all pledge forms in **before December 23, 2024**.



We invite you to embrace the spirit of giving this season by using the "**My Christmas Offering**" and "**Christmas Flower Offering**" envelopes now available in St. Mark's pews. Your contributions allow the Altar Guild to create stunning Christmas arrangements that fill our church with joy during this special time of year. Moreover, **Memorial Flowers** are a beautiful way to honour and remember our loved ones who are no longer with us.

Please submit Memorial Flower requests to the office to ensure your loved ones are honoured this Christmas, **no later than Friday, December 13**. Your generosity enriches St. Mark's Christmas celebrations, enabling us to create a memorable and meaningful experience for all.



St.Mark's 2024 Christmas Tree

St. Mark's 2024 Christmas tree is adorned with a special collection of Neapolitan-inspired angels.

Originally, these angelic figures were crafted from terracotta and fabric, forming an integral part of the elaborate "Presepio," or Nativity scene, found at the Christmas markets in Naples, Italy.

These figures gained popularity in North America during the 1960s. Loretta Haines Howard began collecting these 18th-century figures in 1925 and eventually donated her collection to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Today, her collection is a permanent feature of the museum's Christmas tree and Nativity scene.

Our tree displays ninety vintage angels from the collections of Phillip Thornber, a neighbor of St. Mark's, and his late wife Irene, as well as from Gary Zanner. The Zanner angels were part of the Christmas décor at Church of the Redeemer in Toronto for 20 years.

Men's Communion and Breakfast

Wednesday, January 8th, 2025 8:00AM

Quiet spoken Eucharist in the Church at 8:00 a.m. followed by breakfast at 8:45 a.m.

If you would like to join, please contact:

Greg Walker by email: gregoryfwalker@gmail.com by Noon on Tuesday prior so that numbers for breakfast can be confirmed.
We look forward to seeing you!

Great news!

**A small number of tickets are available through St. Mark's office.
Contact Erin to secure your tickets.**



*St Mark's Anglican
Church presents*

A CHRISTMAS HOMECOMING

*A Festive Celebration in
Story and Song*

— *with* —

ST MARK'S SINGERS · TRILLIUM BRASS
MICHAEL BLOSS
Music Director

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22
AT 4:30 PM

Tickets: \$25
\$5 from every ticket sale
goes to Newark Neighbours

**ST MARK'S
ANGLICAN CHURCH**
41 Byron Street,
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON
Ph: (905) 468-3123
stmarksnotl.org



St. Mark's Kitchen

is thrilled to offer six delicious pea soups and four irresistible chilis, perfect for the holiday season!

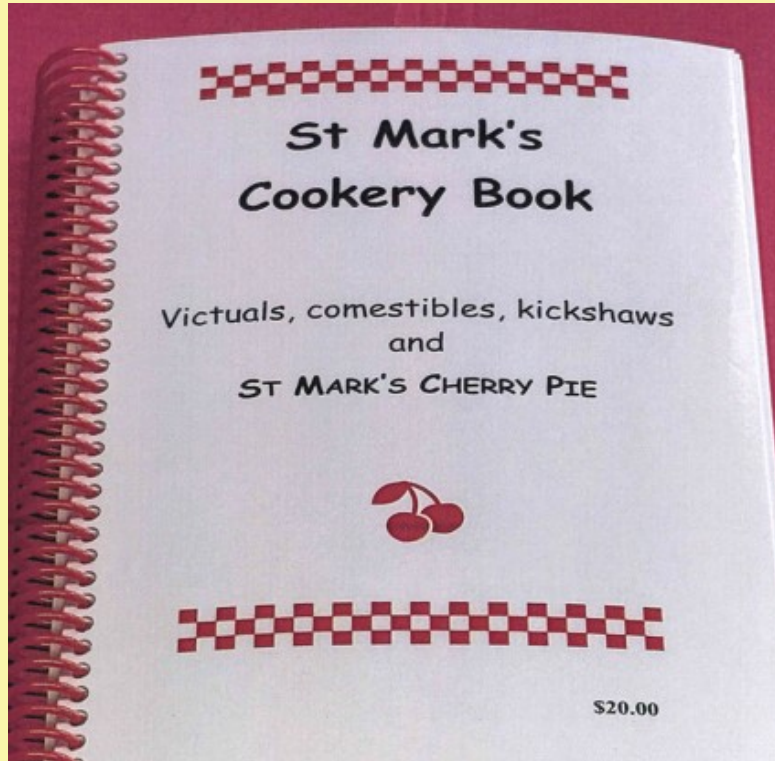
With all the holiday hustle and bustle, a quick and tasty meal is just what you need to keep you energized.

Both our delightful pea soup and savory chili are available for only \$12.00 each.

You can stop by our office Monday through Friday, between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., to pick up your meal. Alternatively, you can call us at 905-468-3123, and we'll happily set them aside for you. Enjoy the convenience of paying over the phone with Visa or MasterCard.

Treat yourself to a hassle-free holiday meal today!

THIS MAKES A GREAT STOCKING STUFFER OR GIFT FOR THOSE WHO ARE HARD TO BUY FOR



\$20.00

Parish Updates

In-Person Sunday Services

8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist [Watch the live stream on YouTube](#)

On Duty this Week

December 15th - Greeter(s) - Jo-Anne Hill and Ian Russell

Reader - Jamie Mainprize

Intercessor - Bob Cross

Altar Guild - Virginia Mainprize and Dorothy Walker

Server - Virginia Mainprize

Order of Service

The Order of Service can be found on our website: [Order of Service Website Page](#)

Church Bells

A reminder to all that the Church Bells play on Sundays at 12:05 p.m. Enjoy!

Staying Up to Date!

Click on this link to find this and recent copies of our E-News: [Visit our recent E-Newsletters](#)

Click on this link to view our: [Visit our Calendar](#)

[Click here to access St. Mark's Anglican Church Facebook Page](#)

You can also access our Facebook page when on our website by clicking on the Facebook icon that looks like an "F".

**Please note that the church office will be closed for Christmas
December 24th-December 30th,
reopening on December 31st.
The office will be closed again on January 1st, New Year's Day,
reopening on
January 2, 2025.**

Prayer Cycles - We pray for:

In St. Mark's parish: Jane DeMunnich, Arlene Dolynski, Andrea Douglas, and Lesley Dukes and their families.

In the Niagara Diocese: Church of Our Saviour the Redeemer, Stoney Creek, The Reverend Canon Bahman Kalantari, Rector, and the people of that parish.

In the Lutheran-Anglican-Moravian Cycle of Prayer: The Venerable Alan Perry, General Secretary, and the staff of the General Secretary's Office, Peace Anthony-Idoko, Director of Finance and Administration, and the staff of Finance and Administration, and Mr. David Jones, District President, and the members of Board of Elders of the Canadian District of the Moravian Church Northern Province.

[St. Mark's Anglican Church Website](#)



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